Perspectives of Watershed Management and Land Use Planning

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES AND THE FUTURE OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN ALBERTA

Conference Hosted by CIRL June 10th & 11th, 2010

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Presentation Outline

• Alberta’s Land Use Framework and the Alberta Land Stewardship Act

• Water for Life – Water and Watershed Management Planning

• Integrating Watershed Management Planning into Regional Planning
Provincial recognition of conflicts between activities on and quality of landscapes

Land Use Planning as a response to cumulative impacts

Land Use Framework- after 2 years of broad provincial engagement the Framework divided the province into major watershed basins.

“We Can’t do it all, everywhere, all the time, anymore”
The Alberta Land Stewardship & Regional Plans:

- Appointment of a Regional Advisory Council (RACs)
- Provincial strategies defined for water and energy
- RAC’s to develop advise on “vision, objectives, and regional strategies”
- GOA develops actions and approaches & a monitoring and reporting plan to support the vision, objectives and strategies
- GOA leads public, stakeholder and Aboriginal consultations on the draft plan
- GOA develops final plan – approval by Cabinet
Land Use Planning Objectives

Regional Advisory Council: Identifying the Interests at play on the landscape and the people who can inform the process

Establishing Desired Outcomes:
• healthy economy supported by our land and natural resources;
• healthy ecosystems and environment; and
• People-friendly communities with ample recreational and cultural opportunities

Conversations between competing land-use values informs policy

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Watershed Planning in Alberta

Alberta’s Water for Life Strategy
• Safe Secure Drinking Water
• Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems
• Reliable Quality Water Supplies for a Sustainable Economy

Governance Model
• Alberta Water Council
• Watershed Planning Advisory Councils
• Watershed Stewardship Groups

SSRB – Water Act
• Water Management Plans

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BRBC Watershed Management

Water Quality Objectives by Reach (BRBC Watershed Management Plan)

Voluntary Adoption & Implementation

Water vs. Watershed Management Plan?
Eastern Slopes Policy

Good Policy?

- Process for the policy development was place based
- Integrated approach to management
- Lack of political and legal support

Prickles the Porcupine

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Integration Points…

Finding the path…

• *Between regional and watershed objectives*
• *Integrated resource management*
• *Legislative backstop*

Elbow River Watershed Partnership
Reconciling Values and Planning Objectives

Top of Grand Valley – West of Cochrane

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… building capacity for sustainable resource management…

Questions?

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